

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 17 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX
BERN FOR INDIAN OCEAN DELEGATION

1. SEVENTEEN-MEMBER SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLI-
GENCE, IN REPORT ISSUED WITH DISSENT FROM THREE SENATORS,
CRITICIZED "CONTROVERSIAL EFFORT TO ANALYZE SOVIET
STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES AND AIMS IN 1976," SAID DAVID
BINDER IN FEB. 17 NEW YORK TIMES. REPORT SAID ATTEMPT TO
ESTIMATE SOVIET CAPABILITIES THROUGH "COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS
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BY SEPARATE TEAMS -- ONE FROM INSIDE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COM-
MUNITY AND OTHER MADE UP OF OUTSIDE SPECIALISTS -- HAD
BEEN COMPROMISED BY PRESS LEAKS AND BY ONE-SIDEDNESS,
BINDER SAID. THAT ESTIMATE CONCLUDED THAT USSR WAS
STRIVING FOR STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY OVER U.S. WHILE
PRAISING CONTRIBUTION OF TEAM OF OUTSIDE SPECIALISTS
(B TEAM) AS "MOST REWARDING" ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS,

SENATE PANEL, FOLLOWING YEAR OF STUDY, SAID COMPETITION ON ESTIMATING SOVIET STRATEGIC AIMS WAS "MORE CONTROVERSIAL AND LESS CONCLUSIVE" THAN RELYING ON SINGLE ESTIMATE. PANEL ASSERTED THAT B TEAM, HEADED BY RICHARD PIPES,

"REFLECTED VIEWS OF ONLY ONE SEGMENT OF SPECTRUM," NAMELY CONSERVATIVE APPROACH TOWARD USSR. PANEL CRITICIZED INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY CIA, FOR BASING ITS SO-CALLED NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES OF SOVIET UNION'S MILITARY POWER "NARROWLY" ON "HARDWARE QUESTIONS" OF WEAPONRY. INSTEAD, SENATE PANEL SAID, AGENCY SHOULD ADDRESS "WIDER FRAMEWORK OF OTHER DYNAMIC WORLD FORCES, MANY OF WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY CREATURES OF NEITHER U.S. NOR SOVIET INITIATIVE OR CONTROL." 1976 ESTIMATE WAS UNDERTAKEN AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH BINDER SAID WAS DISTURBED ABOUT WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE OPTIMISTIC INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES OF SOVIET STRATEGIC STRENGTH. HE POINTED OUT CARTER ABOLISHED BOARD LAST YEAR. GARY HART, IN HIS DISSENT, CHARGED THAT USE OF "SELECTED OUTSIDE EXPERTS WAS LITTLE MORE THAN CAMOUFLAGE FOR POLITICAL EFFORT TO FORCE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE TO TAKE MORE BLEAK VIEW OF SOVIET STRATEGIC THREAT." DANIEL MOYNIHAN SAID B TEAM NOTION OF SOVIET DRIVE FOR SUPERIORITY IN STRATEGIC ARMS "HAS GONE FROM HERESY TO RESPECTABILITY, IF NOT ORTHODOXY" IN "WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED OFFICIAL WASHINGTON." MALCOLM UNCLASSIFIED

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WALLOP, OTHER DISSENTER, ACCUSED COMMITTEE MAJORITY OF ATTEMPTING TO "DENIGRATE B TEAM" BY CONVEYING IMPRESSION IT CONSTITUTED "NARROW BAND OF ZEALOTS."

2. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK SAID "SURPRISING NEW INTELLIGENCE THAT SOVIET UNION HAS STARTED ACTUAL DEPLOYMENT OF LETHAL NEW AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM RAISES AGONIZING NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO SCRAP B-ONE BOMBER AND USE CRUISE MISSILE AS SUBSTITUTE." NEWEST SOVIET GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILE, SS-10, THEY REPORTED, TRAVELS AT SPEED OF SOUND AND CAN ACCELERATE UP TO 100 TIMES FORCE OF GRAVITY. EVANS AND NOVAK SAID PROBLEM IS NOT TODAY BUT EARLY 1980S. "DEFENSE OFFICIALS FREELY ADMIT THAT PRESENT-DAY U.S. CRUISE MISSILE COULD BECOME DANGEROUSLY VULNERABLE TO SOVIET AIR DEFENSES BY 1985 AND BEYOND.... CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AT PENTAGON STILL CLAIM CRUISE MISSILE WILL ALWAYS KEEP AHEAD OF DEVELOPING SOVIET DEFENSES AGAINST IT. DOUBTERS OF THAT BENIGN THEORY HAVE NEW AMMUNITION IN LATEST INTELLIGENCE ABOUT SA-10 AND THEY INTEND TO EXPLOIT IT."

3. BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT WILLIAM J. PERRY, PENTAGON

RESEARCH CHIEF, PROPOSED SPENDING BOOST TO PUSH DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS THAT COULD DESTROY ATTACKING MISSILES AND HOSTILE ENEMY SATELLITES WITH HIGHLY CONCENTRATED LIGHT BEAMS. PERRY SAID SOVIETS ARE MAKING MAJOR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT BUT THAT "OVER-ALL, WE BELIEVE U.S. AND USSR HIGH ENERGY LASER PROGRAMS ARE ROUGHLY EQUAL AT PRESENT

TIME." HE RECOMMENDED 184.1 MILLION DOLLARS IN SPENDING ON HIGH ENERGY LASER BEAM WEAPONS, INCREASE OF ABOUT 34 MILLION DOLLARS OVER THIS YEAR, IN WHAT PERRY DESCRIBED AS "EARLY ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT EFFORT."

4. HENRY BRADSHER OF WASHINGTON STAR REPORTED THAT SECRET NEW STUDY OF INTENSIVE SOVIET EFFORTS TO DEVELOP DEFENSE UNCLASSIFIED

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AGAINST AMERICAN BALLISTIC MISSILES IS CAUSING GROWING CONCERN IN U.S. DEFENSE COMMUNITY AND WORRIES FOR ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATORS. BRADSHER SAID PENTAGON STUDY SUMMARIZES EVIDENCE THAT USSR HAS PULLED TOGETHER ALL ELEMENTS OF WORKABLE ABM SYSTEM, INCLUDING HIGH-ACCELERATION MISSILE TO INTERCEPT ATTACKING MISSILES OUTSIDE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, VERY ACCURATE LONG-RANGE RADARS, AND COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS LINKS. "THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT COMPLETE SYSTEM IS BEING DEPLOYED ACROSS COUNTRY IN VIOLATION OF TREATY WITH U.S. LIMITING ABM DEFENSES," BRADSHER SAID. "BUT IF SOVIETS HAVE WORKED OUT CAPABILITY OF DEPLOYING SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES SOME PROTECTION FROM MAIN ELEMENT OF U.S. NUCLEAR DETERRENT, ICBM'S, THAT WOULD CHANGE EQUATION OF PRESENT ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS. CONCLUSIONS THAT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ANALYSTS HAVE DRAWN FROM ACCUMULATION OF EVIDENCE HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY CIA. THERE IS LONG HISTORY OF CIA'S TAKING MORE RELAXED VIEW OF EVIDENCE ON SOVIET MILITARY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS THAN PENTAGON'S DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. BUT MOUNTING CONCERN IN PENTAGON IN RECENT MONTHS IS BEING REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL POLICY."

5. JOHN DILLIN OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR POINTED OUT RISING DEFENSE BUDGETS IN USSR HAVE REQUIRED SOVIET PEOPLE TO POUR AN ESTIMATED 12 PERCENT OF COUNTRY'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCTION INTO MILITARY SPENDING -- FAR ABOVE U.S. LEVEL OF FIVE PERCENT. DILLIN SAID "NEWLY DECLASSIFIED CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY TOP U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS INDICATES THAT ECONOMIC STRAINS WITHIN SOVIET UNION ARE MAKING IT HARDER AND HARDER TO KEEP BOOSTING MILITARY BUDGETS. THERE ARE OTHER DIFFICULTIES. CIVIL DEFENSE, DESPITE HEAVY INVESTMENTS, REMAINS INADEQUATE. SOVIET INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES ARE LESS ACCURATE THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN ONES, AND SOVIETS CANNOT SEEM TO MASTER SOLID FUEL TECHNOLOGY FOR THEIR ROCKETS, EVEN WITH MAJOR SCIENTIFIC EFFORTS. SOVIET FIGHTER PLANES REMAIN FAR BEHIND U.S. IN SOPHISTICATION. AND DESPITE HEAVY SPENDING, MANY SOVIET FORCES STAND AT LOW STATE OF READINESS." DILLIN SAID GROWING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, HIGH-LIGHTED BY SLOWDOWN IN OIL OUTPUT, ARE EXPECTED TO PROMPT SOVIET LEADERS TO BEGIN LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS TO BRING ABOUT DEFENSE SAVINGS IN EARLY 1980S.

6. BALTIMORE SUN CORRESPONDENT HAL PIPER, REPORTING ON BELGRADE CONFERENCE, SAID "NEW STRAINS HAVE BEEN PUT ON SOVIET UNION'S EAST EUROPEAN BLOC, WITH HUNGARY AND POLAND FOLLOWING MAVERICK ROMANIA IN TRYING TO DEMONSTRATE SOME INDEPENDENCE OF MANEUVER, AND EVEN BULGARIA FALLING THOUGHTFULLY SILENT AT TIMES." PIPER REPORTED FROM BELGRADE: "THERE IS NO QUESTION OF SOVIET BLOC ACTUALLY SUNDERING, DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS UNANIMOUSLY SAY. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE OF EASTERN EUROPE UPON MOSCOW IS TOO STRONG TO BE RUPTURED BY ESSENTIALLY ATMOSPHERIC ISSUES OF BELGRADE. BUT TERMITES OF CHANGE MAY BE EATING INTO EAST BLOC SOLIDARITY." PIPER SAID EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE LEARNED HOW TO MANEUVER IN MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE. "SOVIET UNION, BY CONTRAST, HAS STUCK TO ITS CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS -- APPROPRIATE TO AN OUR-SIDE-YOUR SIDE NEGOTIATION LIKE SALT TREATY OR TRADE PACT, BUT NOT TO NEGOTIATION THAT IS TRYING TO BALANCE INDEPENDENT INTERESTS OF 35 COUNTRIES REPRESENTING EVERY POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL SHADING."

7. UPI REPORTED FEB. 17 THAT SENATE INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED GOVERNMENT REVIVE TWO-TEAM APPROACH TO INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES USED IN 1976 SO MORE THAN ONE PERSPECTIVE IS REPRESENTED ON IMPORTANT SECURITY QUESTIONS UPI SAID SUBCOMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SENATOR STEVENSON, STUDIED EXPERIENCE OF A AND B TEAM APPROACH USED FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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FIRST TIME IN 1976 TO ANALYZE SOVIET STRENGTHS AND INTENTIONS. IN 1976, A TEAM WAS MADE UP OF EXPERT ANALYSTS FROM CIA, DIA, NSA, AND INTELLIGENCE ARMS OF STATE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, FBI, ERDA AND TREASURY. ON B TEAM WERE RETIRED MILITARY, INTELLIGENCE AND DIPLOMATIC FIGURES AND OTHER EXPERTS ON SOVIET AFFAIRS. VANCE

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